



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION II

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mike Negrelli, RPM
FROM: Robert M. Alvey, P.G.
DATE: April 12, 2016
SUBJECT: Five Year Review Site Inspection
Hooker Chemical/ Ruco Polymers Superfund Site
Hicksville, NY

This memo is to document that a Five Year Review Site inspection was conducted for the Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymers Superfund Site on April 7, 2016. It is noted that all remaining site facilities associated with the former operations have been demolished and additional soils excavation was completed in 2015 through a consultant for Bayer Corporation under NYSDEC oversight. The currently facility in operation under EPA oversight is a small "bioparging" groundwater treatment facility located on Hazel Street several blocks south of the former Hooker-Ruco facility.



Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymers Biosparging Treatment Building, Hazel Street.

Attending the Five Year Review Site inspection were:

Mike Negrelli, EPA RPM

Robert Alvey, EPA Geologist

Carol Stein, EPA RPM for Northrop-Grumman/Navy Bethpage

Steve Scharf, NYSDEC Project Manager for Bayer and Northrop-Grumman/Navy Bethpage

Klaus Schmidtke, Glen Springs Holdings, PRP representative

Roger Smith, Glen Springs Holdings, PRP representative

Victoria Whalen, C A Rich Consultants, treatment plant operator

William Fitchett, C A Rich Consultants, treatment plant operator

The Hazel Street facility is located across the road west from former Northrop-Grumman property located at 1001 South Oyster Bay Road that had been sold in 1997 and utilized by Lily Popcorn. The Lily Popcorn facility has subsequently closed. The Hazel Street building houses a small office, compressors, monitoring equipment and instrumentation for the operation of injection of air into a series of injection wells at 2 transects intersection a comingled plume containing vinyl chloride, trichloroethene, and perchloroethene.. The building also houses equipment for “biosparging” of supplemental nutrients into the groundwater, however, this component of the treatment system has not been necessary based on sampling results to date. The system is designed only to treat the vinyl chloride component of the contaminated groundwater.



Valerie Whalen, C A Rich Consultants, demonstrating system control board operations at the Hooker-Ruco treatment building.

After a short “Health and Safety” briefing, Valerie Whalen demonstrated the operational functions of the instrument control board. Klaus Schmidtke and Roger Smith provided a background on the vinyl chloride contamination and overview of the previous pilot system and

current operations. The plant appeared to be in good operating condition, clean, and quiet while the compressors were not in operating mode.



Viewing injection vault with Steve Scharf- NYSDEC, Mike Negrelli- EPA, and Klaus Schmidtke and Roger Smith- Glen Springs Holdings.



Injection vault being opened by Victoria Whalen and William Fischett, C A Rich Consultants. Carol Stein- EPA observes.



Photo of injection vaults along transect in Sleepy's bedding store parking lot.

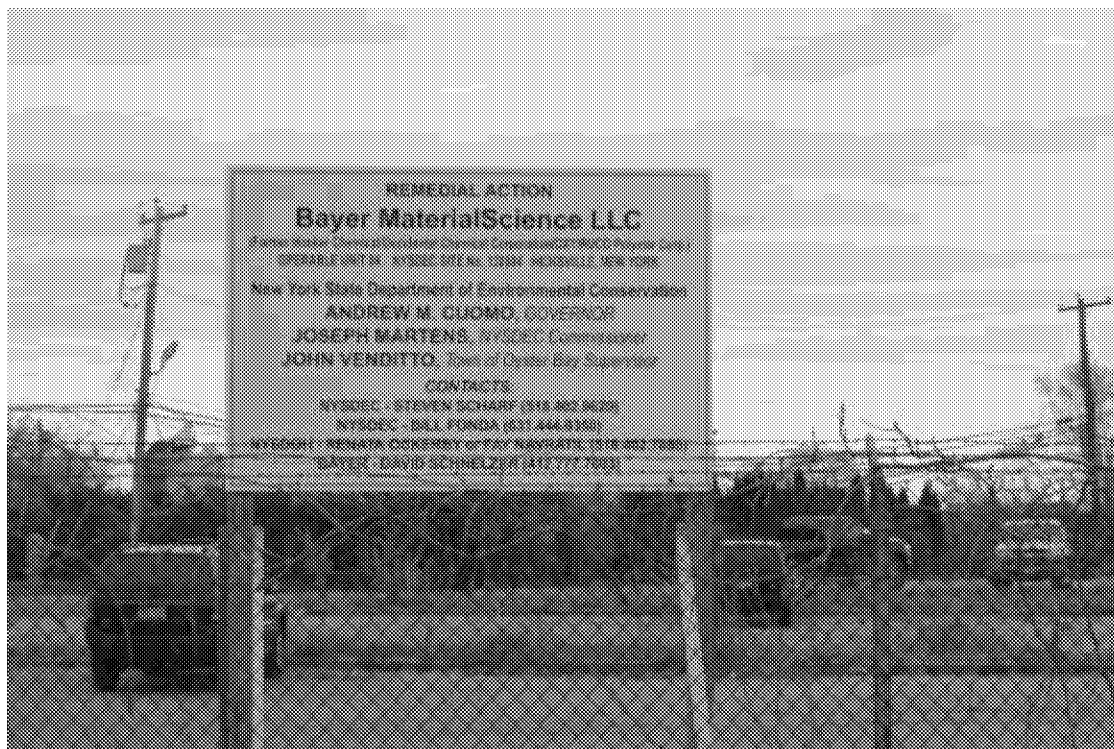


Hooker Ruco Vinyl Chloride Removal System operating in support of Northrop Grumman-Bethpage Groundwater Treatment System.

Access was provided to observe the location of the pretreatment system installed by Hooker Ruco on the Northrop-Grumman property in the vicinity of former Grumman Production Well 3 and current Extraction Well 3R. When vinyl chloride from the Hooker Ruco plume was detected at Northrop Grumman Extraction Well 3, a pretreatment system was installed. The Northrop Grumman Extraction Well 3, utilized to capture a significant amount of groundwater contamination from this area, failed and was replaced by Extraction Well 3R by Northrop Grumman in 2015.



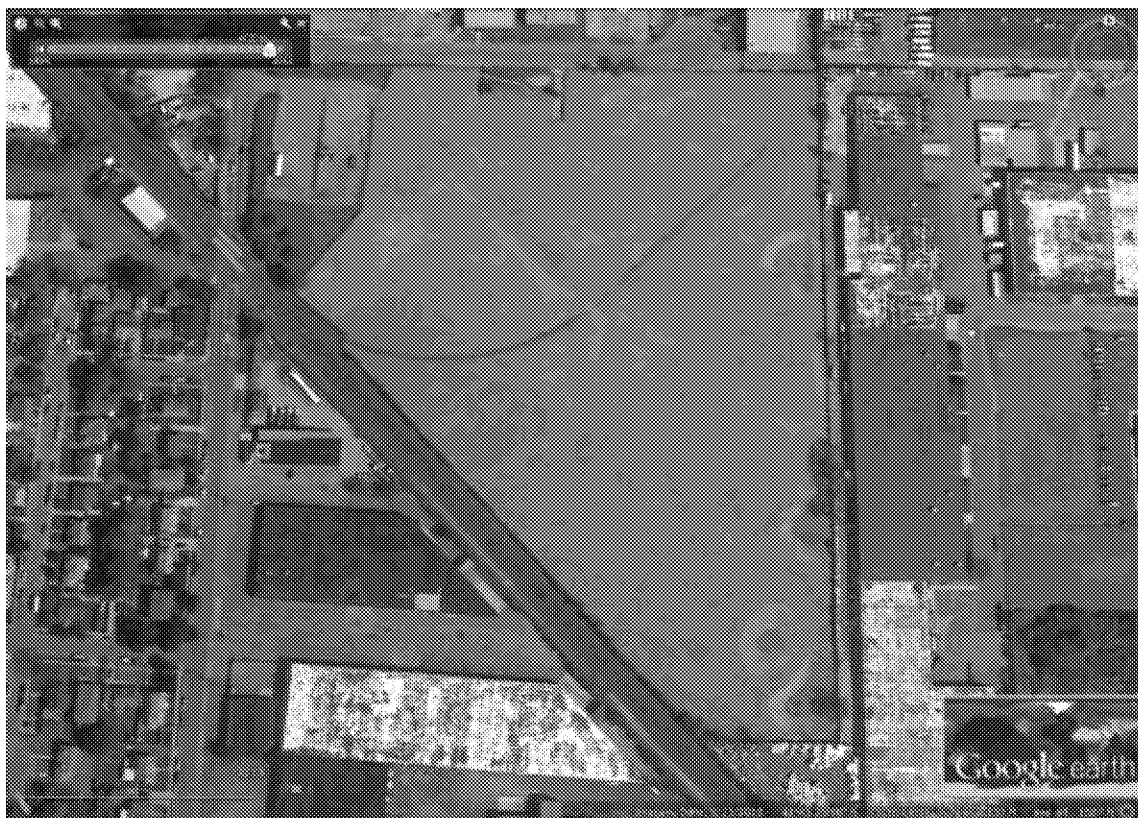
Brick building housing former Northrop-Grumman Production Well 3.



Bayer Material Science (Former Hooker Chemical/Ruco Polymers site, Hicksville



Bayer OU-4 Soil excavation 2015 (Former Hooker Ruco site)



Former Hooker Ruco Site (Bayer OU-4) Soil Excavation overview. May 23, 2015 (above) and Mar 31, 2004 (below) photo credits: Google Earth



We were unable to conduct a physical inspection of the monitoring well network associated with the Hooker Chemical Ruco Polymers Site during the site inspection. A few of the wells have been reported damaged and others have not been used for sample collection if there had not been detections of vinyl chloride reported. Steve Scharf with NYSDEC advised he will address additional monitoring well sampling, including Hooker Ruco MW 53, as part of the overall Northrop-Grumman/Navy Bethpage and regional groundwater contamination issues. I suggested that prior to formal decommissioning of any monitoring wells not necessary for the specific vinyl chloride co-mingled area, samples be taken all wells.

Steve Scharf also briefly discussed the completion of the demolition and excavation associated with OU-4. NYSDEC is awaiting the final engineering report, but advised that all areas of concern have been addressed.

After the site inspection was completed, I accompanied Steve Scharf and Carol Stein to observe activities pertaining to the Northrop-Grumman/Navy Bethpage site.